



U.S. Department of Justice

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## PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **MOTHER AND SON SENTENCED IN ST. JOHN DRUG CONSPIRACY CASE**

**St. Thomas, USVI** - Marisol Ferguson, a 43 year old St. John resident, and her 19 year old son, Herbert Ferguson, Jr., were sentenced in federal court this week for drug related offenses stemming from a May 6, 2011, Indictment, United States Attorney Ronald W. Sharpe announced today.

On October 19, 2011, District Court Chief Judge Curtis V. Gomez sentenced Marisol Ferguson to three years of supervised release for her conviction of Misprision of Felony. As a special condition of supervised release, Ferguson was ordered to complete substance abuse counseling and enroll in a GED program. Ferguson must also pay a \$100 special assessment.

On October 20, 2011, Ferguson's son, Herbert Ferguson, Jr., was sentenced to six months imprisonment and three years supervised release for his conviction of Possession with Intent to Distribute Marijuana and Use of a Communication Device to Facilitate a Drug Crime. Ferguson, Jr., was ordered to complete substance abuse counseling, enroll in a GED program and pay a \$400 special assessment. Judge Gomez also ordered forfeiture of two firearms, a Davis .32 semi-automatic handgun, and a H.R. Model 930 .22 revolver handgun, seized during a search of the Ferguson resident on St. John.

Both Fergusons were charged in a 53 count Superseding Indictment along with Herbert Ferguson, Sr., Jerome Potter, James Stephens, Terrance Martin, Jr., Earl Skelton, Robert Shinnors and Felix Olivieri. According to the Indictment, the defendants were involved in a drug trafficking organization that was operating a large scale, open market drug distribution of cocaine, crack cocaine and marijuana on the island of St. John. Ferguson, Sr., Martin and Shinnors have pleaded guilty to various charges in the Indictment, and Potter, Skelton and Stephens are in federal custody awaiting trial on January 12, 2012.

The case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the United States Marshals Service and the Virgin Islands Police Department. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Kim R. Lindquist, Delia Smith and Nolan D. Paige.